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Ranger Dispatch

Bureau of Ranger Services

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DCR Park Passport Strives to Get Children Outdoors

By Lieutenant Jason Hunt, District Ranger for the Connecticut River Valley District, Central Region

DCR's Park Passport program is certainly not a new idea. The National Park system has been doing it for years. States like Virginia and Wisconsin, among a few others, also have a Park Passport. The idea is uniform in its intentions; get people out to the parks and hopefully introduce them to areas they may never have explored. We as a Bureau and an Agency strive to do the same, albeit through different means.

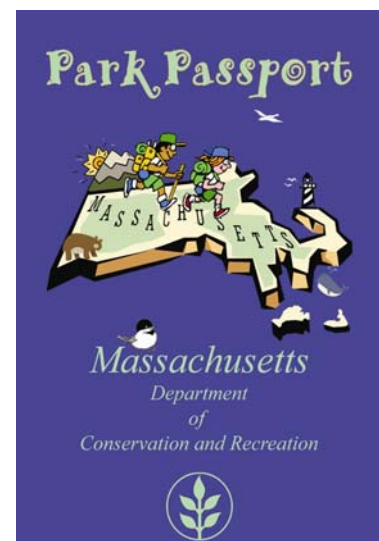
As computers, gaming systems and more and more television stations enter all our lives, people, and children in particular, are losing touch with the outdoors and all the *activities* involved therein. Childhood obesity is on the rise as is diabetes among our youth. The main, and obvious, reason for these health issues is the *inactivity* of children.

I was recently presenting a Library Pass Program at the Agawam Public Library and was speaking about the No Child Left Inside initiative. A teacher asked why we did not have a Passport program for DCR and added that she felt it would go a long way to connecting children with the outdoors. I told her it was an excellent idea and that I would mention it to some people. After hearing the enthusiasm from Director Priscilla Geigis and Deputy Chief Kristin Karl-Carnahan, I asked Ranger Peter Michaels and Lieutenant Kathryn Ward to join the team and move forward with

some ideas. Ranger Michaels jumped right in with his enthusiasm and his knowledge of graphic design. The look of the passport is the product of his imagination. Lieutenant Ward brought her usual vigor and began contributing ideas immediately. Together we set out to put the best product on the table. Six months later the project is in full swing with a possible release date of April 2008. It is truly something the Bureau of Ranger Services can be proud of!

The first idea is to have a passport book small enough to fit in a back pocket and kid-oriented. There will be pages with squares to be stamped for all staffed

Continued on Page 2



Conceptual Design By
Ranger Peter Michaels

Park Passport (continued)

parcs, as well as our Watersheds and Bureaus. Other pages include a passport identification page, modeled after the National Park Service's passport book, where children can write in their name, address, favorite parks and it will also include a spot for a picture, if they choose. An animal tracks page, what to bring when hiking page, a coupon to enter one State Park for free to get their passport rolling, plus several other pages, all with a kids theme will make our Passport unique.

The second idea is to create park-specific stamps that represent what each individual park has. For instance, on the left is a conceptual design of the Skinner State Park stamp. These stamps will have a look that hopefully will entice children to want to get them and make them excited once they do!



The Passport Book will also include a pullout map in the back. The plan is to have this be the 'wish list' for kids to have at home. On it will be a map of Massachusetts and the location of all the Parks participating in the Passport program. However, it will not have the boundaries for state land, like DCR's brochure; instead the kids will be able to see what every stamp looks like because of the park location indicators modeled after the stamps. This will enable the kids to choose the next location they want to visit, perhaps by simply thinking the stamp is cool. The bonus with this is the addition of a color sticker when a kid gets his or her Passport stamped. This sticker can then be affixed to the map in the appropriate spot thereby providing a running tally of where

they have visited and where they have to go. In addition there will be a page of stickers in the Passport such as: "Home" to designate their hometown and several "favorite park" style stamps that they can put on the map.



The main idea is to make this fun for kids! We want them to be the catalyst to go outdoors, not the parents "forcing" the kids to get away from the computer and be active outdoors. As an incentive, we plan on offering prizes as a reward for attaining certain levels of passport completion. These may include a patch, t-shirt or perhaps a pin. We hope to have a grand prize for anyone able to complete the passport by acquiring all the stamps in the book. However, these items are still very much in the planning stages.

The Passport itself will be complete soon. Ranger Michaels has finished the third prototype and it is ready to be reviewed. Once a design and format is approved we will be on to the next steps.

Now for the burning question, what do we have to do as Rangers and DCR staff? The answer: get the word out!!! It will potentially be here before we know it and there is not a better way to advertise it than word-of-mouth, so talk it up. You will be asked to stamp the passport as there will be Bureau specific stamps and pages. Most important, though, is to ensure when children visit our facilities they have the time of their lives. I'm sure many of us have our fondest memories outside, make sure they have the same! ☸

COMING EVENT

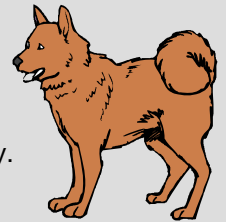
**Sunday, November 18
1 pm – 3 pm**

Dog Sled Fun Run

Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot on 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

Meet a furry sled dog up close and personal! The **Yankee Siberian Husky Club** will present an educational exhibit on dog sledding in New England. Demonstrations with wheeled rigs, if weather permits. Bring cameras for a great photo opportunity.

(Demonstration only.
No rides given.)



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

**Wednesday, Nov 14th
10 – 11:30 AM**

Event Planning 101

Please join Captains Maggi Brown and Mike Nelson as they take the time to share their learned expertise in planning/hosting a large public event. Both are veteran planners of the successful and popular First Day Hikes.

RSVP NLT Nov 12th

Maggi.Brown@state.ma.us

Remembering Our Mission

by Barbara Buls, Acting Deputy Chief, Interpretive Services

Revisiting goals is a like establishing New Year's resolutions: a little intimidating, but well worth the visit; it keeps you on track. Revisiting a mission statement is necessary for truthful self-evaluation.



At DCR our mission is: ***To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources.*** Following the mission statement is this addendum: The health and happiness of people across Massachusetts depend on the accessibility and quality of our green infrastructure - our natural resources, recreational facilities, and great historic landscapes. The DCR continues to improve the vital connection between people and the environment.

So . . . are we accomplishing what we set out to achieve? It's a big responsibility to assume that the happiness of people is actually dependent on the efficacy of our agency. And their health? Wow, this is a tall order.

2007 was a landmark year for DCR as we undertook a new initiative known as *No Child Left Inside*. *No Child Left Inside* is a promise, a pledge...designed to help today's children reconnect with the great outdoors, while building the next generation of environmental stewards. The Bureau of Ranger Services was intrinsically involved in the planning, budgeting and implementation of this initiative which seeks to reconnect

families and children with the outdoors to combat growing social problems including childhood obesity, ADHD, and Nature Deficit Disorder. The largest segment of the program was known as the *Great Park Pursuit (GPP)*.

The GPP took place on six consecutive Saturdays from May 19 – June 23 and was held at the Blue Hills Reservation, Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Great Brook Farm State Park, Daughters of the American Revolution State Forest, Skinner State Park and Castle Island, in that order. Families pre-registered (at www.greatparkpursuit.org), followed clues to discover the park of the week, and visited all these sites in urban and state parks regions. The winners enjoyed prizes highlighting outdoor activities designed to entice people away from their television and computer screens and out into nature again.

Activities included fishing, hiking, knot tying, camping, camp cooking, canoeing, hayrides, tree and bird identification, sailing, stewardship and kids' games to mention a few. All are activities that have declined in popularity as a result of technical domination over kids, the search for "safe" entertainment, fear of the outdoors, fear of strangers, lack of knowledge, all elements that are increasingly exiling our children to the indoors with electronic babysitters.


So . . . did we accomplish what we set out to achieve? Over 500 families registered for the events, traded photos and stories on the web page, and got to know each other in the spirit of cooperation and good fun competition. Kids learned a lot of cool, new outdoor stuff, supervised by a qualified staff that cares about the visitor, and loves to have fun. DCR employees worked tirelessly and willingly on those days to bring this program to the participants.

So . . . did we accomplish what we set out to achieve? Judging from the faces of the participants, we did. There they were, every week, smiles ear to ear, going from station to station at each park, putting their best effort into each activity. They came to the last day at Castle Island and took the quiz about all the parks in the GPP. Quiz results showed that most had learned about each and every park and its resources.



The end of the Great Park Pursuit was both gratifying and sad. It was necessary to provide further park opportunities for these families who had trooped all over Massachusetts. So the fall portion of the initiative was born.

Wachusett Mountain, the ski hill that leases DCR property, was the stage for the Kids Fest. Invitations were sent to the participants of the 2007 event. The first day of the Fest, September 22, over 50 families from the GPP showed up to participate in our events, as well as the mountain's activities. It was gratifying to know that all these people were still interested and following DCR's initiative to get kids outside.

We look forward to the winter fest, which is planned for the middle of February at a location to be determined. There will be more outdoor activities including tracking, skiing, ice fishing, dog sled demonstrations, snow men, UA demos and much more! Come and join us as we still strive to bring more and more people to our mission and the great outdoors with the message . . . *It's Your Nature!* 

Parking Ticket Enforcement Program

By Kathy DeLucca, Parking Ticket Program Coordinator

The Office of the Parking Clerk is managed by the DCR's Bureau of Ranger Services. Parking regulations are strictly enforced throughout the DCR Urban and State Park Reservations and roadways. The purpose of this program is to ensure public safety, provide resource protection and to make available accessible parking for patrons of the state's park system.

DCR Park Rangers, Environmental Police, Mass. State Police and municipalities have the authority to issue DCR parking tickets throughout the state on DCR properties and roadways.

These tickets are processed in the Boston office at 251 Causeway Street. Payment of these tickets must be made within 21 days of issuance. Failure to pay this fine may result in additional penalties including the non-renewal of the registered owner's driver's license and vehicle registration.

Payment mailing address is:


Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of the Parking Clerk
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

Checks are made payable to: Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Please reference violation number and/or license plate number on the check. Cash is accepted if paying in person, exact change only. No

online or credit card payments are accepted.

Hearing requests must be made, in writing to the above address, by the registered owner of the vehicle, within 21 days of the issuance of the parking violation. All hearings are held at this same address.

Office of the Parking Clerk's hours are Monday through Friday (except holidays) 8:00AM – 4:00PM.

Any questions concerning the parking ticket program should be addressed to Kathy DeLucca or Dot Hall, at 617-626-1419, or FAX at 617-626-1472, or go to www.mass.gov/dcr. 

VIOLATION		DCR	
207626		MONTH	DAY YEAR
STATE	MA NH NY CT RI NJ OTHER		
COLOR	G PA CO OTHER		
TYPE	Fast Chevy Tru Honda Nissan Dodge VW Jeep		
OTHER MAKE			
TIME	AM PM	VEH TYPE	COLOR
LOCATION			
RANGER/TROOP OFFICER			
I HAVE AFFIXED THIS NOTICE TO VEHICLE			
COMMENTS			
<input type="checkbox"/> 03 Fire Hydrant \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Restricted Area \$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> 28 Handicap Ramp \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Wrong Direction \$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> 26 No Parking During Snow/Weather Emergency \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Emergency Areas \$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> 04 Within Intersection \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Bridge, Viaduct, Underpass, Tunnel \$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> 09 Crosswalk or Sidewalk \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 Travel Lane \$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 Resident Permit Only (Boston & Cambridge Only) \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Obstructing Driveway \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 Parkland \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Obstructing Traffic Control Signal \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 02 Double Parking \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 No Passing Zone \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 05 Snow Removal, Clearing, Maintenance \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Less Than Ten Feet \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 06 Obstructing Public Transportation \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Angle Parking \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 07 Fire Station Exit or Entrance \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Angle Parking Only \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 08 Railroad or Street Railway Crossing \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 One foot From Curb \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Bus or Trackless Trolley Stop \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> 22 Loading Zone		
<input type="checkbox"/> 27 Handicap Parking \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Angle Loading or Unloading \$15		

Place written appeal, check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the envelope and mail within 21 days to avoid late penalty. DO NOT SEND CASH. You may also make payment at the DCR, Office of the Parking Clerk, 251 Causeway Street, Boston MA 02114.


PLEASE PEEL TAPE AND FOLD FLAP TO SEAL ENVELOPE

DCR Crossing Guard Program

By Christine Kurker, Crossing Guard Supervisor

The Bureau's Crossing Guard Program, within the Urban Parks, places Crossing Guards along our roadways to ensure safe passageway for school-aged pedestrians. Currently the program has 40 Crossing Guards covering 26 different locations throughout school zones in Boston and Greater-Boston. The DCR has crossings as far South as Quincy and as far North as Melrose.

All Crossing Guards new to the program recently participated in a 4-hour training. Some topics included how to deal with angry drivers, drivers who do not stop at red lights, and drivers who speed. Also discussed was how to communicate with students who do not want you to cross them or those who do not use the crosswalk. The proper techniques of traffic control were also demonstrated and practiced.

On average, Crossing Guards work approximately 10 hours per week, have holidays and school vacations off, and do not work over the summer months. For more information on our program, please call 617-626-1421. 

UNIFORM & UNIFORM ACCESSORIES DISTRIBUTION

To improve the Bureau of Ranger Services ability to provide all Rangers, full time and seasonal, with any uniforms and accessories needed please adhere to the following request. Regional Captains must submit to the Bureau by January 31, 2008 an inventory of what their region has stored on-hand, so the Bureau can order the appropriate amount of uniforms and accessories needed for the year. With the Regional Captains replying to this request, the Bureau will be able to provide uniforms and accessories more efficiently to the regions and can better prepare for the hiring of the Seasonal Rangers for the summer season.

OHV Patrol & Training Weekend

By Captain Robert Rando, Western Region

OHV (off-highway vehicle) Patrol and Training Weekend for State Park Rangers took place in October at October Mountain and Pittsfield State Forests, consisting of three days of bone-rattling and mud-flying memory work, including even getting caught in a unexpected downpour! Attending the training were Capt. Steve Ouellette, Lt. Kathy Ward, Capt. Jennifer Stowe and Capt. Robert Rando, who hosted the training. The first day was spent reviewing CMRs, Chapters 90 and 90B, and citation writing. Later in the day an obstacle course was set up to practice riding skills and to get used to handling the ATVs which they would be riding the next day while on patrol. On Saturday, public ATV use was light, but riding on the trails at October Mountain State Forest was a challenge for the Rangers. That same day, Capt. Ouellette and Capt. Rando went to Pittsfield State Forest to do some ATV patrol there. Check points were set up on the Skyline Trail and at Balance Rock State Park. A total of 30 ATVs were checked, registrations and other requirements were inspected for violations, and one citation was issued. The day was a picture perfect



Pictured from the left are Capt. Steve Ouellette, Capt. Jennifer Stowe, Lt. Kathy Ward and Capt. Robert Rando

autumn afternoon with hikers, leaf peepers and ATVers, out in full force enjoying the weekend. Another training weekend is being planned for the spring, more information will follow. **CR**

Project Learning Tree

By Gini Traub, Visitor Services Supervisor

Project Learning Tree – PLT for short – is best known as a book full of environmental education activities for young people. It is that and much more.

PLT's curriculum and supporting materials are award winning and nationally recognized. In addition to its better-known *Activity Guide*, written for pre-kindergarten through grade 8 students, PLT has modules for high school and adult learners, an *Energy and Society* kit and other helpful materials.

PLT's ultimate goal is to help young people become environmentally-literate thinkers and responsible decision makers. To that end, PLT's international network of teachers, environmental educators and forestry professionals has researched, written and field tested "hands-on minds-on" curriculum and activities. These activities are designed to raise awareness, provide information and promote environmental stewardship.

PLT reaches formal and informal educators through professional-development workshops led by trained facilitators. The educators, in turn, use activities with their students, campers, scouts and youth groups.

For 30 years, PLT has been taking kids outside to learn. Many of its activities foster exploring and feeling comfortable in the natural world – a perfect fit with DCR's *No Child Left Inside* initiative. PLT's focus on trees, forests and forest ecology and its emphasis on stewardship make DCR the natural partner for state sponsorship.

Kristin Karl-Carnahan, Deputy Chief of Ranger Services, is the coordinator for Project Learning Tree in Massachusetts. Would you like to attend a PLT workshop to discover how PLT helps students learn from nature? Do you know of any teachers who might be interested? Please don't hesitate to contact Kristin or her environmental education staff. We'd love to hear from you! ☞



Mock Search Yields Good Practice and Lessons Learned

By Chris Williams, Deputy Bureau Chief

On October 17th, the Bureau of Ranger Services staged a multi-agency search exercise hosted by Willard Brook State Forest. Held to fulfill the annual requirement for DCR SAR Teams, the training day also provided an opportunity for practicing and testing interoperability between DCR and several partner agencies and groups.

The exercise was organized by a team of SAR managers from Ranger Services, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Environmental Police to closely resemble a real lost person incident. Other participating groups included several local police and fire departments, the DCR canine team, and a few civilian SAR teams.

While the challenges that appear in a real search incident also found their way into the exercise, the mixed teams responded as they were trained. Their day was termed a success as three of the four 'victims' searched for were found in the time allocated. The terrain of the search area provided a good test of the interoperability between the various agencies only in the technological realm. In spite of good 'patches' between the variety of radio systems, there were still areas in the Forest where no radios found signals. On the plus side, navigation via GPS proved excellent, allowing the Command Post to track not only the areas that were covered by the search teams but also the specific tracks taken by the SAR canines.

Overall, the mock search provided a valuable experience for DCR's teams and partners and also pointed Ranger Services to areas where we can increase the effectiveness of our delivery of this public safety function. ☞

Project Learning Tree Contacts


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Kristin.Karl-Carnahan@state.ma.us (617) 626-1463
Tim Rayworth, Northeast Regional EE Coordinator,
Tim.Rayworth@state.ma.us (508) 369-7834
Gini Traub, Central West Regional EE Coordinator,
Gini.Traub@state.ma.us (415) 584-6788

Canal IllumiNations! Lights up Lawrence

By Jim Beauchesne, Visitor Services Supervisor

Young ballet dancers and opera singers, seniors singing Italian songs, and lanterns lighting the canal at dusk were all part of the second annual Canal IllumiNations! at Lawrence Heritage State Park on Sunday, October 14, 2007. The event was the finale of Live Lawrence!, a series of cultural events funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Adams Grant program for cultural economic development.

Lawrence Heritage State Park partners with several other Lawrence organizations to organize the Live Lawrence! events, now ending their second year. Visitor Services Supervisor Jim Beauchesne works with the other partners, including most of the major cultural organizations in Lawrence. The Park also hosted this year's first event, a blues concert in July in the beautiful Visitor Center Park.

Canal IllumiNations! included performances on a stage just outside the Visitor Center, by the Italian Serenaders, the New England Civic Ballet, and the Young Opera Company. Youth in several Lawrence schools had created lanterns in the weeks leading up to the event, and more were made on the spot that day. As dusk approached, lanterns were placed along the North Canal, and some in the Canal itself, creating a scene of somewhat eerie beauty. This year's event was attended by 200 or more people and was considered a success and a stepping stone to a bigger and better event next year. 




Walden Watermelon Party

By: Michael W. Mitchell, Visitor Services Supervisor

Walden Pond State Reservation Park Interpreters Danielle Priddy and Christopher O' Neill held the annual end of Summer Watermelon Party this past Labor Day weekend. The program featured Henry David Thoreau portrayed by living historian Richard Smith and tasty watermelons served by Park Interpreters Priddy and O' Neill. Over 350 park visitors participated, making the Watermelon Party one of our most successful programs of the season.

Many visitors who participated in the program are visitors that come to the Watermelon Party every year to celebrate the unofficial end of summer. Park Interpreters Priddy and O' Neill shared stories with visitors and answered their many questions while the visitors enjoyed tasty watermelons on a hot late summer day. Many first time participants of all ages also attended this year. It is always fun to watch visitors' facial expressions as they approach the Thoreau house replica only to be greeted by two friendly Park Interpreters offering free watermelon. Visitors are then taken back in time to 1846 when they enter the Thoreau house replica to visit with and discuss the issues of the day with Henry David Thoreau.

Thoreau was known throughout Concord for the juicy watermelons that he grew in the summer months during his two year, two month, two day stay at Walden Pond. Thoreau once said "In the dog days we come near to sustaining our lives on watermelon juice alone, like those who have fevers. I know of no more agreeable and nutritious food at this season than bread and butter and melons, and you need not be afraid of eating too much of the latter." (Wild Fruits) I think it's fair to say that those who participated in this year's Watermelon Party would wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Thoreau. This year watermelons were donated by local supermarkets Donelan's Marketplace and Crosby's Market. 



Parks As Classroom

By Gini Traub, Visitor Services Supervisor

Many people vividly – and fondly – recall field trips from their years as students. DCR's Parks As Classroom (PAC) program appreciates this and recognizes our state's reservations, forests, and parks as ideal living laboratories for student learning. It is the reason Ranger Services Environmental Educational Initiatives created Parks As Classroom field trips.

Each PAC field trip addresses a specific cultural or natural feature or resource management practice. Some PAC field trips are about a unique or exceptional property. For example, Skinner State Park's historic Summit House gives a glimpse into 1800's travel, tourism, technology and entrepreneurship. Some PAC modules are more general – such as animal adaptations in wetlands - topics that kids find interesting and fun and teachers know are relevant to their curriculum.

We've built on the basic field trip concept by providing the extra resources and support that teachers need as they face tight schedules and an ever-increasing emphasis on meeting curriculum standards. Each PAC field trip is written up into modules that we can send to teachers. The modules include pre-site visit activities to prepare students for the field trip, along with background information, correlations with state curriculum standards, post-visit activities, assessment suggestions and a bibliography.

For example, our *Wonderful Wetlands* PAC's pre-visit preparation has students becoming critters in an aquatic environment and experiencing how water quality affects their lives. At the park, students explore pond life to discover "it's a jungle out there" and to see for themselves the many adaptations that allow for life in a pond. And after the field trip, they invent an aquatic animal and explain how it is well-adapted to its habitat.

By their very nature, our PAC curriculum support DCR's *No Child Left Inside* initiative. PAC is the essence of place-based learning, which improves student performance and can help build community. We make it easy for teachers and engaging for students. Who knew school could be so much fun?

Kristin Karl-Carnahan, Deputy Chief of Ranger Services, and her Regional Environmental Education Coordinators, are continually developing Parks As Classroom modules. ☞

PAC Modules Available

Then and Now at the Mt. Holyoke Summit House - at Skinner State Park

This Valley Rocks: Geological History and Landforms of the Connecticut River Valley and Surrounding Hilltowns - at Mt. Tom State Reservation, Skinner State Park, and Mount Holyoke Range State Park

Beaver Adaptations and Habitats - at many parks

Wonderful Wetlands: Macroinvertebrate Adaptations - at many parks

Between New England Tides – at Sandy Point State Reservation

The Landscape of Maudslay – at Maudslay State Park

The Rise and Fall of a Canal – at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

Beyond the Bovine – at Great Brook Farm State Park

Henry David Thoreau: The Making of a Naturalist – at Walden

The Human Face of Industrialization - at Holyoke Heritage State Park



**2007 Annual NEPRA
Conference
Thursday, Nov 29, 2007
At the Doyle Conservation
Center
Leominster, MA**

For more information, go to NEPRA's
website at
www.yankeeranger.org

Autumn News from Waquoit Bay

By Nancy Church, Interpretive Services and Volunteer Coordinator

Although boats are disappearing from their moorings and summer visitors have left the Cape, the Waquoit Bay Reserve continues to reach out to a variety of audiences through educational programs and partnerships. This fall, K-12/Teacher Training Coordinator, Pat Harcourt teamed up with Falmouth Public Schools to present classes and field trips relating to ground water and watersheds for students and completed a professional development workshop for teachers focusing on Global Warming and Climate Change. Continuing a long standing partnership, Pat also helped to train a new group of Americorp Cape Cod volunteers, which included an all day, interactive Water Festival. Americorp member Jamie McLaren was welcomed to the Reserve as this year's education volunteer.

As one of twenty-six National Estuarine Research Reserves around the country, WBNERR participated in National Estuaries Day by hosting a program for the Falmouth Newcomers Club and other members of the general public. The 25 attendees joined Nancy Church in experimenting with watershed models as well as collecting data and live specimens from the bay using a variety of scientific tools. The stewardship intern, Andrew Tweel, led an interpretive program associated with Cape Cod Pathways Weekend. The theme of his program was restoration of the salt marsh at South Cape Beach State Park. Visitors left with a better understanding of the value of salt marshes and the anticipated results from the project.

In another cooperative effort, Waquoit Bay staff Laurie Tompkins and Tonna-Marie Surgeon-Rogers, teamed up with staff from the NOAA Coastal Services Center to facilitate multi-day workshops in Hyannis and Danvers titled, "*Navigating Rough Seas: Public Issues and Conflict Management*". The targeted audience of federal, state and local coastal managers, selectmen and town administrators learned skills to help resolve coastal and marine related issues and facilitate decision making in public forums.

Trail visitors were pleased with the new parking area and interpretive kiosk erected at the Quashnet River area of the Reserve. The new signage celebrates the cultural history of the area as well as the natural resources. Many of the volunteers and non-profit groups which were instrumental to the development and installation of the kiosk joined in the ribbon cutting event held on September 11th. ☞



Pictured are Waquoit Bay Reserve Manager Brendan Annett, State Representative Matt Patrick and Commissioner of Fish and Game Mary Griffin.



Recycle your Rechargeable Batteries

www.rbrc.org

Harbor Island Trivia

By Bill Stokinger, Cultural Resource Specialist

Spectacle Island

Modern accounts of Boston Harbor history usually regale tales of casinos and brothels operating on Spectacle Island, all culminating in a police raid on the island. Newspapers from 1856 tell differing stories, reinforcing that you can't always believe everything you read.

Version 1: *"Gamblers Arrested.*- A decent was made yesterday afternoon by the harbor police and officers of the second station upon a party of gamblers, twenty-seven in number, who had been engaged in the various methods of gambling upon Spectacle Island. They were brought to this city."

Version 2: *"The Gamblers.* The twenty-seven individuals who were arrested for gambling on a pleasure boat in the harbor yesterday, were before the Police Court to day, and nearly all were fined \$10 each and a moiety of the costs... The two principals in the arrangement, John Agin and Isaac Hayden, were held in \$500 each for examination to-morrow, on the charge of having gambling implements in their possession."

Version 3: *"Arrest of Gamblers.*- For a long time parties of men and boys have been in the habit of going down the harbor to Spectacle Island on the Sabbath for gambling purposes. Yesterday, as usual, a party of thirty or more started down in the yacht Young America, accompanied, unbeknown to themselves by two members of the Harbor Police, who 'took notes' of their proceedings. On their return to the wharf in the city they were met by the Harbor Police and eight officers of the second station, who arrested twenty-five of the party, several escaping by jumping upon vessels near the wharf...A roulette table, belonging to John Agin, and a lot of cards, props and dice were also taken possession of. The prisoners, followed by a crowd of sympathizing friends, were taken to the Harbor Police Station and locked up.

Whether the lads ever got off the boat and onto the island remains to be seen, but for the 21st century's popular press, why let facts ruin a good story! ☞

BRS Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Bureau of Ranger Services was held in September at Hopkinton State Park. Chief Rudge opened the meeting with an overview of the past year, acknowledging the three divisions within the Bureau, and the accomplishments and progress they've achieved throughout the year. Following his comments, Chief Rudge turned the floor over to the Deputy Chiefs, Chris Williams, Adam Parr and Barbara Buls, who each took a few moments to re-cap the year from the perspective of their respective divisions. Deputy Director of State Parks Ken Foley shared some thoughts and encouragement from an agency standpoint, and answered questions.

Before adjourning for a cookout, the following individuals were recognized for their accomplishments throughout the past year:

Jenn Stowe	Paul Barnett Award recipient for excellence in the art and science of the Ranger profession
Peter Michaels	Seasonal Ranger of the Year – State Parks
Charles Leach	Seasonal Ranger of the Year – Urban Parks
Kristen Lamb	Interpretive Team Award
John Ratti	Innovation in Interpretation Award
Matthew Meehan	Excellence in Interpretation Award
Donna Sudak	Outstanding Professional in Service Award
Katherine Bellone	Outstanding New Interpreter Award



State House Detachment

By Sean P. Dowd, State House Ranger

Summer might be winding down for much of the DCR family but things are just heating up here under the golden dome. The Legislature is back in formal session, keeping DCR Rangers as busy as ever. Rangers, who provide 24 hour security for the State House and maintain a dispatch center for the Urban Parks system, provide security screening for thousands of visitors per day. State House Rangers also accommodate visiting dignitaries, private functions, a constant list of legislative hearings, and even the occasional historic political milestone. Rangers also have the duty of enforcing parking regulations, direct motor vehicle traffic and provide for flow of pedestrians in and around the State House. Events span a wide range from the somber to the exhilarating often drawing an equally wide range of emotions among attendees. The State House Ranger staff is tasked with maintaining order in spite of these challenges while remaining professionals.

Recent State House events of note include the Fallen Firefighters memorial dedication which took place on September 11th of this year. The bronze statue depicts three firefighters in the performance of their duties while fire laps at their feet. It

occupies a prominent space in Ashburton Park directly across from the Law Enforcement Memorial.

On October 29th the State House hosted the George L. Hannah Awards, a law enforcement medal given for bravery in the line of duty. This ceremony was a somber event attended by Governor Deval Patrick and many other distinguished guests. This award is named for Trooper George L Hannah who was killed in the line of duty in 1983.

On October 31st things really heated up during a visit from Boston Red Sox catchers Jason Varitek and Doug Mirabelli. The players attended an event on the front steps in honor of their recent World Series sweep of the Colorado Rockies.


The State House is currently being used as part of the set for a major motion picture starring Steve Martin, to be released some time next year. Formal legislative sessions will undoubtedly bring organized protests and rallies, in the foreseeable future, as the House and Senate debate important issues like casino gambling, sub prime loan foreclosures and mental health, to name but a few.

Chief's Corner *By Curt Rudge, Chief Ranger*

It's hard to believe that once again we've just about put the wraps on another summer recreation season. For me it seems that the more we get involved in, the faster the summer passes. Special events always seem to catch most of our attention and in major part thanks to everyone in Ranger Services these events give the Department an opportunity to put it's best foot forward. The Great Parks Pursuit, Constitutional Convention at the State House, Fourth of July and Head of the Charles Regatta are just a few of the enormous operations Bureau Staff made major contributions to and everyone participated in at one time or another. To each and every bureau member I congratulate you and thank you for your professionalism and dedication.

To me, however, as much as the public adores these special events, I prefer to believe that it's the patrols, interpretive programs, recreational programs, and other ranger services that take place every day that are truly the core of our mission. Whether it's a ranger on patrol at the state house or an interpreter in a small visitor's center, we constantly provide services to the public. I take great

pride knowing that we send staff to the field every day that are trained and prepared to save lives by administering emergency first aid, searching for a lost person or even delivering a baby with bad timing! And the strength and backbone to all ranger services is training.

As the temperatures plunge and we move more deeply into fall, training opportunities will begin to expand. A key responsibility of the bureau will be to make sure that relevant and quality training opportunities are available for all bureau members to maintain existing skills or expand into new areas. First Aid and Incident Command classes have already been scheduled for everyone to maintain those certifications. The list of other upcoming opportunities is too long to list here, but I encourage you all to take advantage of every opportunity you can. Training is perishable; please take every chance you can to refresh. We'll make sure that each of you is made aware of every class that is offered and I look forward to seeing you at as many as I can get to. 



We want to hear from you!!

Comments, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, as are contributions. If you have something you'd like to share in this Newsletter, please send it in!

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